

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose;

(d) whether Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) has taken help of experts of this field available throughout the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes seismic surveys in the affected areas after the major earthquakes in the country. Such studies were also done after the Gujarat earthquake in January 2001, with the basic objective to prepare the isoseismal map of earthquake affected area based upon the damages to different types of structures/buildings, terrain changes and human perception. Results of these studies would be useful in developing future mitigation strategies. The details of studies undertaken by GSI on the Gujarat Earthquake have been published in GSI special publication 76, released in 2003.

(c) No separate funds were provided to GSI for the above studies. GSI undertook earthquake related studies out of funds allocated for 'special investigations'.

(d) and (e) GSI has undertaken collaborative research pertaining to earthquakes with researchers from University of Japan, Geological Survey of Japan and IIT, Kanpur.

Revival of Bharat Gold Mines Limited

2795. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to float global tenders for the revival of Bharat Gold Mines Limited in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF);

(b) if so, whether there are any investors who have shown interest in the project;

(c) whether the floating of a global tender was aimed at extracting gold from cyanide dumps at 240 hectares near the mines; and

(d) by when the benefits of VRS will be extended to remaining employees of BGML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) Karnataka High Court in its order dated 26.9.2003 has given certain recommendations which also include extending the benefit of VRS order dated 6.11.2001 to the employees of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and that Government should take appropriate steps to enable such of the employees, who have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), to form an Employees Co-operative by providing them appropriate land and such machinery and equipment as it can spare, so that they can take up projects with their specialised knowledge and experience. In this context, BGML Employees, Supervisors and Officers United Forum submitted its proposal to take over the assets of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and to run the mines as well as extract gold from tailing dumps. The proposal of the BGML Employees, Supervisors and Officers United Forum was processed by the Government of India after ascertaining their representative character from the Government of Karnataka and Ministry of Labour, Government of India. Government has decided to invite global bids for assessment/sale of the assets of the BGML and to make counter offer to society/company floated by the co-operative society of ex-employees of BGML, at the highest bid received or the value assessment made by the in-house Committee (to be reassessed at the time of transfer) whichever is higher. This is subject to approval of Karnataka High Court (company court) and viability of the project.

Government has also approved to reopen the Special Terminal Benefit Package (STBP) to the employees of BGML for another period of one month from the date of opening of the STBP.